

# WANDERERS COAST HOME IN COMFORT

BY 'NOVA'

Wycombe Wanderers, 3; Dulwich, 0

**FOR** the opening half-hour of their Amateur Cup first round tie with Dulwich Hamlet at Loakes Park on Saturday, Wycombe Wanderers looked capable of finishing the day as the competition's leading goalscorers.

But instead of annihilating their uninspired opponents, Wycombe relaxed to give the scoreline an air of respectability—and Dulwich, led earlier like lambs to the slaughter, were given a partial reprieve.

The crowd of 3,000 were disappointed at Wycombe's attitude, which gave them a comfortable, but not overwhelming margin of victory. This fault of relaxing their grip when well on top is another chink in the Wanderers' armour.

On this occasion it made for a quiet and not very exciting cup-tie. Dulwich were rarely able to ruffle the quick-tackling Wanderers' defence, superbly marshalled by the immaculate Peter Roystone, while the Wycombe forwards seemed content to weave pretty but usually ineffective patterns.

What a different story it might have been if the early Wycombe pressure had been sustained, once Hodges had shown the way with a brilliant run to enable Balson to score after only ten minutes.

With Wycombe in the lead it lay with Dulwich to try to force the pace, but apart from a few flashes from Modesto, and some upfield sorties by Joyce, they had little to offer. The Wanderers' forward line, by comparison, constantly looked dangerous, with Lowen and Balson spear-heading the fine work of the inimitable Worley, Horseman and Hodges.

But with a goal lead, two excellent victories behind them, and playing with an unchanged side again, Wycombe began to get over-confident. Only a weak shot from Modesto, which glanced off a post with Syrett yards away, seemed to shake them.

Then George Maharg, playing his best game in the senior eleven since his promotion, sent Worley haring away. But his shot flashed outside the post. Then, three minutes before half-time, Worley took a corner on the right and Lowen glanced the ball past Darvill.

A 2-0 interval lead was comfortable enough, but any hope of a second half spectacle to remember was shattered immediately after the restart, when Joyce could not get out of the way of a sliced kick from Balson, and deflected it into the net.

In the next second Lowen again sent Balson away but the burly inside-forward, who appears to get stronger as the game goes on, saw the shot saved well by Darvill.

It was all Wycombe now, the only exception being when Modesto slipped through and forced Syrett to dive full-length and finger-tip the ball away for a corner and a little later when Hollands surprised Syrett with a shot which hit the bar.

This was the end of the excitement, for the Wanderers' defence—already playing tightly—closed up even more, determined to give nothing away. With Charlie Gale having an unhappy afternoon and Horseman unable to get his breath because of a kick in the chest, the Wycombe forward line revolved around the right-wing, where Maharg and Beck gave Worley valuable assistance, but even his own special brand of magic failed to prise open a path past the dour Hamlet defenders again.